

**PENDING CLAIMS AS AMENDED**

1. (Previously Presented) A computer-implemented method for extending a protocol synchronization period between a Point-to-Point Protocol (PPP) client and a PPP server, wherein the PPP server is located on a wireless communication device, the method comprising:

generating a negative acknowledgment message at the PPP server in response to an Internet Protocol Control Protocol (IPCP) configuration request from the PPP client, wherein the IPCP configuration request comprises a requested IP address parameter, wherein the generating comprises including supplemental IPCP information instead of an IP address in response to the requested IP address parameter and deliberately excluding an IP address in order to extend the protocol synchronization period, wherein the supplemental IPCP information comprises a type of address different from a potentially valid IP address assignable to the PPP client for establishing a PPP communication link; and

generating an acknowledgement message at the PPP server in response to the IPCP configuration request from the PPP client if the PPP server has received all required parameters to complete the protocol synchronization period.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

generating a new negative acknowledgment message at the PPP server in response to a repeated IPCP configuration request from the PPP client, wherein the new negative acknowledgement message includes different supplemental IPCP information from a previous negative acknowledgement message and further deliberately excludes an IP address.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

generating a new negative acknowledgment message at the PPP server in response to a repeated IPCP configuration request from the PPP client, wherein the new negative acknowledgement message includes the same supplemental IPCP information as a previous negative acknowledgement message and further deliberately excludes an IP address.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the supplemental IPCP information comprises a Domain Naming System (DNS) address.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the supplemental IPCP information comprises a Windows Internet Naming Service (WINS) address.

6. (Previously Presented) Apparatus for extending a protocol synchronization period between a Point-to-Point Protocol (PPP) client and a PPP server, wherein the PPP server is located on a wireless communication device, the apparatus comprising:

at least one memory element; and

at least one processing element configured to execute a set of computer-implemented instructions stored in the at least one memory element, the set of computer-implemented instructions for:

generating a negative acknowledgment message at the PPP server in response to an Internet Protocol Control Protocol (IPCP) configuration request from the PPP client, wherein the IPCP configuration request comprises a requested IP address parameter, wherein the generating comprises including supplemental IPCP information instead of an IP address in response to the requested IP address parameter and deliberately excluding an IP address in order to extend the protocol synchronization period, wherein the supplemental IPCP information comprises a type of address different from a potentially valid IP address assignable to the PPP client for establishing a PPP communication link; and

generating an acknowledgement message at the PPP server in response to the IPCP configuration request from the PPP client if the PPP server has received all required parameters to complete the protocol synchronization period.

7. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 6, wherein the at least one processing element is located in an electronic device that hosts the PPP client.

8. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 6, wherein the at least one processing element is located in an electronic device that does not host the PPP client.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~An computer-implemented~~ apparatus for extending a protocol synchronization period between a Point-to-Point Protocol (PPP) client and a PPP server, wherein the PPP server is located on a wireless communication device, the apparatus comprising:

means for generating a negative acknowledgment message at the PPP server in response to an Internet Protocol Control Protocol (IPCP) configuration request from the PPP client, wherein the IPCP configuration request comprises a requested IP address parameter, wherein the generating comprises including supplemental IPCP information instead of an IP address in response to the requested IP address parameter and deliberately excluding an IP address in order to extend the protocol synchronization period, wherein the supplemental IPCP information comprises a type of address different from a potentially valid IP address assignable to the PPP client for establishing a PPP communication link; and

means for generating an acknowledgement message at the PPP server in response to the IPCP configuration request from the PPP client if the PPP server has received all required parameters to complete the protocol synchronization period.

10. (Previously Presented) A computer-implemented method for extending a protocol synchronization period between a Point-to-Point (PPP) client and a PPP server, comprising:

engaging the PPP client in an Internet Protocol Control Protocol (IPCP) negotiation to obtain IPCP parameters operable in a PPP communication link based on an initial configuration request message received from the PPP client, wherein the initial configuration request message comprises initial IPCP parameters comprising an initially-requested IP address; and

triggering the PPP client to generate subsequent configuration request messages comprising the initially-requested IP address based on corresponding negative acknowledgement messages excluding an IP address and including supplemental IPCP information instead of the IP address in order to extend the protocol synchronization period,

wherein the supplemental IPCP information comprises a type of address different from a potentially valid IP address assignable to the PPP client for establishing a PPP communication link.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, further comprising triggering the PPP client to avoid dropping a supplemental IPCP information parameter from the subsequent configuration request messages to avoid a supplemental IPCP information request timeout.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein triggering the PPP client to avoid dropping the supplemental IPCP information further comprises including subsequent supplemental IPCP information in the negative acknowledgement message, wherein the subsequent supplemental IPCP information comprises a type of address different from a potentially valid IP address assignable to the PPP client for establishing a PPP communication link.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein triggering the PPP client to avoid dropping the supplemental IPCP information further comprises including arbitrary subsequent supplemental IPCP information in the negative acknowledgement message.